

The Theme of this year's Reunion: "Looking forward...Looking Back" had several additional underlying themes:

We celebrating more than two (2) decades of our incredible Museum.

We honored numerous classes.

We paid honor and memory to the magnificent Faculty and Staff who taught & cared for us during our time at our beloved academy.

We inducted nine into our Sports Hall of Fame.

We remembered two members of the Roller Society who have passed away in the last two years.

We toured James Madison's home, Montpelier.

We played sports on the front field, and golfed, and shot clays.

We learned how to create our own art with paint.

We had great meals with plenty of time to sit and visit.

We honored the flag of our great nation.

Make plans to be one of the "we" by coming to next year's reunion, September 9-11, 2022.



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Augusta Military Academy Alumni Foundation, Inc.

October 2021

Dear Friends,

It has been a month since our 2021 Alumni reunion, and I am still smiling at what I feel was a very successful event!

We had a wonderful turnout, and even though alumni and friends stayed at various hotels during the weekend, our old campus was alive with the presence of former AMA Cadets and the Hospitality Suite at the Blackburn Inn was a favorite meeting spot for the entire week end!

Kudo's again to the Reunion planning committee and all of the volunteers that made this year's get together possible and a success (see page 23). But most importantly, thank you to each and every one of you that attended the reunion! Without your presence and participation, future reunions would be difficult to justify and continue. In spite of our ranks' gradual decline, it is clear to me that our spirit is still very much alive and kicking! Thank you all!

The AMA Alumni Foundation Board of Directors has switched gears from "Reunion Mode" to "business as usual mode" so, it is now time for other key committees to put on their game face and focus on the sustainability of our museum and legacy.

The reunion garnished a decent profit that will be used to help underwrite the day-to-day expenses of keeping the lights on, but we still have work to do in order to eliminate our annual operating deficit. The Fundraising

Committee led by **Tom Del Valle**, '73, and supported by **Warren Fleming**, '72, **Bud Oakey**, '70, and **Mickey Toms**, '67, are actively working to identify and capture government and private grant money along with other sources of State, County and Federal funding. We are also reaching out to Alumni and friends who have shown an interest in helping the AMA Foundation. I strongly believe that the radical positive turnaround in how the Foundation business has been managed over the last year and a half has something to do with that. The fundraising committee has already reaped rewards for their hard work! [See page 21]

The Public Relations Committee, led by **Garry Granger**, '71, will continue to engage the Augusta County community in many ways, such as our *Noble Legends Speaking* events in the Spring, our *Fall Festival*, and supporting local underprivileged elementary public-school children and local shelters.

Yes, our humble museum positioned smack in the middle of the Shenandoah Valley is metamorphosing from the low key, private all boys club, into a *dynamic community beacon of light*.

What a great way to showcase what our legacy was and continues to be! Team effort!



Augusta Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc.

October 2021

We had a wonderful reunion in 2021 after missing a year. The Blackburn Inn is an excellent hotel even though it is a little spread out. Our numbers for Reunion 2021 were up from 2019 and our events were a little less expensive this year thanks to the overwhelming support for the sponsorships program.

Our PX/Gift Shop operation has improved immensely under the supervision of our museum director, **Amy Hensley**. Those of you that attended the reunion this year look at the PX catalog that you were given. You will find some excellent items such as the Polo Shirts as well as new and improved T-shirts.

This year was a great year even with its challenges and the long list for taps. We all lost many friends along with an exceptional friend to many of us - Linda Roller Livick who is indeed a great loss to all of us and a passing of an era. The reason I mention this is she will be recognized at the Roller Society in 2022 as requested by Col. Livick.

I would like to remind all that we received a request for contributions in the mail late September. Please make a contribution to our Foundation. Any amount is gladly appreciated. If you are not in the position to make a large donation consider \$25 or \$50 a month. We are still pushing for the 300 club at \$50.00 a month for ten months. If you care to join the 300 club please contact our museum director, **Amy Hensley** (540) 248-3007.

We are always in need of volunteers for docent duty both weekends and weekdays. Our museum staff has been very busy working on

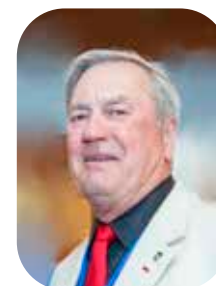
innovative ways to get the community more involved with the museum. As the museum staff works on special projects, these consume a great deal of additional hours and therefore volunteers are greatly appreciated during this busy time.

Those of you that attended our annual Alumni meeting, one of the topics was mini reunions. Even though some of us have done these types of reunions in the past, the Public Relations Committee, chaired by **Garry Granger**, '71, has reintroduced these events. The focus is on increasing our numbers for the annual reunion by having former cadets reacquaint near the area they reside in. If you decide to conduct a mini reunion please contact, Amy Hensley and her staff will provide you with a mailing list for your area. The Alumni Association will provide recommend guidance and possibly a representative to attend the event.

Mark your calendars now for next year's reunion September 9th - 11th.

In closing, I would like to wish you all a happy Thanksgiving and again I want to thank everyone for their support in this endeavor for Reunion 2021.

Respectfully,



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Magazine of the Augusta Military Academy Alumni Foundation, Inc.

PO BOX 100

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The Bayonet is distributed to alumni and friends of the Augusta Military Academy. Notice of changes of address should be sent to the AMA Museum, PO BOX 100, Fort Defiance, VA 24437-0100 or by email to Museum@AMAalumni.org

Please provide us with your 9-digit zip code! The Bayonet welcomes information and articles for or about AMA alumni. Share the news of promotions, awards, retirement, births, marriages, deaths, etc. Digital photos should be at least 300 dpi and preferably in TIFF format. Printed color photos are also welcome.

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Museum Archives

Our museum collection contains nearly one thousand photographic records. Shown here are some of the earliest photos from the archives.



An 9 x 7.5 sepia tone photograph of the Roller House backed by heavy card stock. This shows the original home with the south wing intact and the tower connecting the Roller House with the school building on the north side. Several people are posed on the lawn in front of the house including two men - one sitting on chair, which appears to be Professor Roller, and the other standing; three small children, most likely the Roller brothers, and one is playing with a dog; a woman dressed in a dark colored-dress is standing behind the children; and further away, leaning against a tree is a young lady, perhaps Maggie Bell. Provided to the museum collection by **Marvin E. "Mickey" Gordon, '39**, in 2000.



A 4x5.5 sepia tone photograph of a cadet backed by a card imprinted for "Landes 25 E. Main St., Staunton VA." The cadet is unidentified but appears with a kepi in a dark button-down jacket with three buttons at the cuff of each sleeve, a white stand-up collar and gray trousers with a black stripe down the leg. The number 121 is written in the top left corner of the print. The back of the card is imprinted, "From the Studio of D.J. Landes, Photographer, 25 East Main Street, Staunton VA. All photographs taken by the new instantaneous process. Invaluable for children." The date of the photograph is believed to be from the 1880's.

left: Donated by **Linda Livick**, a photo of the Augusta Military Academy Baseball Team 1889 with campus in the background. Numbers are written on each player and the corresponding names are written on the bottom mat of the photo.

Notice the campus in the background showing 10 years of growth in the number of buildings, indicating the growth of enrollment at the Academy..

below: The Academic Hall, known by most of us as Hoover Hall, was constructed in 1909, not long after Professor passed away in 1907. Below is the first photo we have of the building taken in 1910



I have a story to tell ...

Don Studer

I'm asking if all of you would go back with me to December of 1983 and January of 1984. At this time, as you know, AMA had the word that it must close. There was much to be done, Faculty, Staff and Alumni were busy in the offices calling the parents of Cadets telling them that the school

was closing. They were arranging for the picking up of the cadet's belongings as well as trying to get some cadets into other schools.

During that time, I was also working in the offices when I saw a car pull up. From that car a Cadet came out in full uniform. He walked to the point where Battalion Commanders had been standing on the blacktop since 1914.

He looked around, both left and right, and seemed pleased, he then focused on the point where "A" company had fallen in. He could picture in his mind's eye all of the Commanders and all of the Cadets that were ever in "A" Company for the whole existence of Augusta Military. Looking at the Commanders,

he says, "A' COMPANYS, REPORT!" He hears from all of those Commanders, in unison, reply; "A' COMPANY, ALL PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR, SIR!" Salutes were exchanged.

Our unknown Battalion Commander then looks to the "B" Company area, and he saw all of the Cadets and all of the Commanders of every "B" Company standing there. He then says, "B' COMPANYS, REPORT!" And all of the 'B' Company Commanders responded,

"B' COMPANY, ALL PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR, SIR!" Salutes are exchanged. And he moved on to the "C" Companys, and "D" Companys and "E" Companys, Band Companys, Headquarters Companys as well as every other unit that ever formed up at AMA, and it didn't matter if it was Augusta Military Academy, or Augusta Male Academy, all of them responded.

Once again looking over those assembled, he said to the Battalions; "BATTALION, FOR THE LAST TIME, DISMISSED." He got into his car and drove off.

Now, I thought that I knew who that Battalion Commander was, but I was wrong. Now, standing before you, I feel that given the opportunity,

any one of you could have been that Commander.



Monumental Movie Maker: Steven C. Barber, '78

By Ainsley Bloomfield, Museum intern

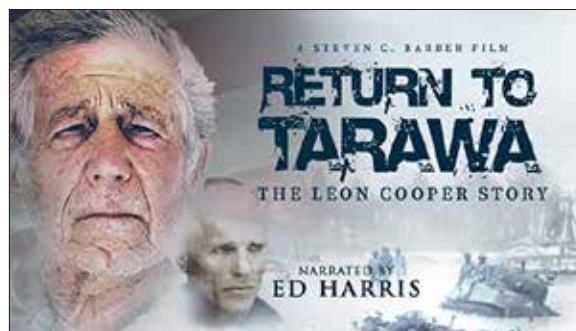
The annals of AMA's history show the proclivity of its alumni for building fascinating careers. Steven C. Barber, owner of Vanilla Fire, an acclaimed documentary film company, is no exception. Barber's middle initial stands for "Carborundum," a nickname bestowed on him by Leon Cooper, a WWII veteran who has starred in several of his films. Carborundum is a man-made mineral harder than a diamond, used in high-endurance industrial processes. Cooper was complimenting Barber's tenacity and his ability to pitch a "hard sell" in the world of media. But the dazzling compound also compares well with the brilliant messages found in his films.

Barber was born in Syracuse, New York, in 1961. He is the great-nephew of Edith Wharton, the iconoclastic novelist who was the first female winner of the Pulitzer Prize for American fiction. His stepfather, an alumnus of Greenbriar Military School, built Snowshoe Resort near Green Bank, West Virginia. An unruly teenager, Steve found himself outside Augusta Military Academy's front gates on a cold day in February 1977. Like so many, he hated the school at first, but over time he gained firm friends and the solid academic foundation from which all AMA alumni benefited. Steve played trumpet in Band Company, became the school bugler, and exercised his latent creativity on the Bayonet newspaper.

In 1979, he went to Western Kentucky University, where he studied television and radio communication. He headed west to seek his fortune in Hollywood at the age of twenty-three. For many years, he acted in television productions—soap operas, sitcoms, and, he felt compelled to admit, a few reality shows. But the endless auditioning, competing against a plethora of mediocre aspiring actors, grew dull for the driven, imaginative Barber. He gradually segued into the far more influential role of "the man behind the camera." Steve also sailed the globe on many cruise ships, an adventure he had long dreamed of. Nineteen crews asked him to depart their vessels for much the same reasons that had landed him at AMA a decade before! He hopscotched across the globe from port to port, always uncertain of his next destination. Eventually, he collected enough material for a popular novel, *Below the Waterline*, which candidly relays his own experiences with the underbelly of the cruising industry. The book was published in 2007.



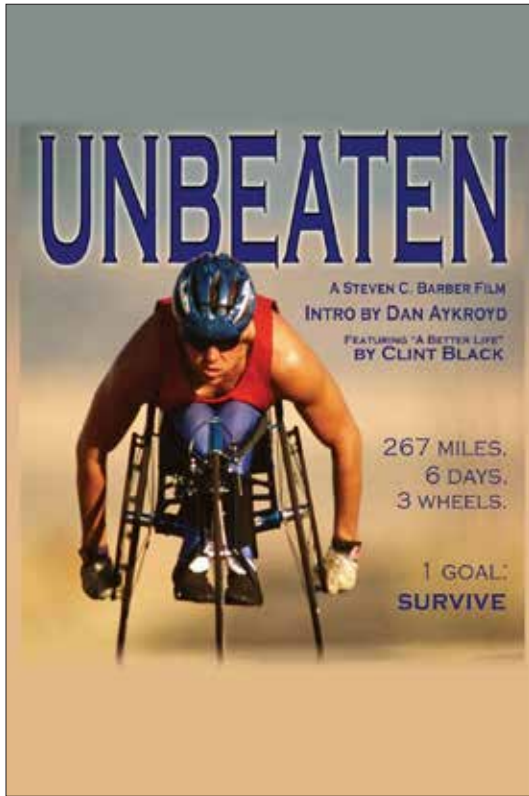
Steve and his wife Tamara Henry were married in 2003. They live today in the Pacific Palisades, with a cat and a Jack Russell named Jimmy Chew. The upscale Los Angeles Palisades was constructed in the 1920's as a Methodist artist colony and welcomed many displaced Jewish intellectuals during WWII. Its first movie studio existed before the neighborhood was built, and it has always been a haven for film stars and producers. In this setting, Steve Barber has been easily able to garner support for his projects, which in turn serve noble causes.



Barber founded Vanilla Fire Productions in 2007 to create his first independent film *Return to Tarawa*. Tamara chose the company name, combining Steve's weakness for lattes with her own fiery personality. Kelsey Grammer, known to many as the lead actor on the television sitcom *Frazier*, became Barber's right-hand man

at Vanilla Fire. In *Return to Tarawa*, an ancient veteran, Leon Cooper, returns to the Pacific-island stronghold where over a thousand U.S. Marines were slain in taking in 1943. 76 hours of fighting on Tarawa amassed the

same number of casualties as six months on Guadalcanal. (The Japanese statistics were worse; all but seventeen soldiers had sacrificed themselves after the final Banzai charge.) In 2007, hundreds of Cooper's dead comrades remained buried on the fast-sinking atoll, a situation which he bitterly protested. A second Barber film, *Until We Are Home*, prompted Congress to enact bipartisan legislation for the return of the servicemen's bones after sixty-odd years. In 2010, the Joint POW-MIA Accounting Command made the first effort at recovering remains off Tarawa since the Graves Registration Service had been discontinued in 1951.



Vanilla Fire's next major production appeared in 2012. *Unbeaten* follows the amazing efforts of 31 paraplegics competing in the longest wheelchair race in history. The documentary shows the racers' endurance as they propel themselves over six days and 267 miles of mountainous terrain between

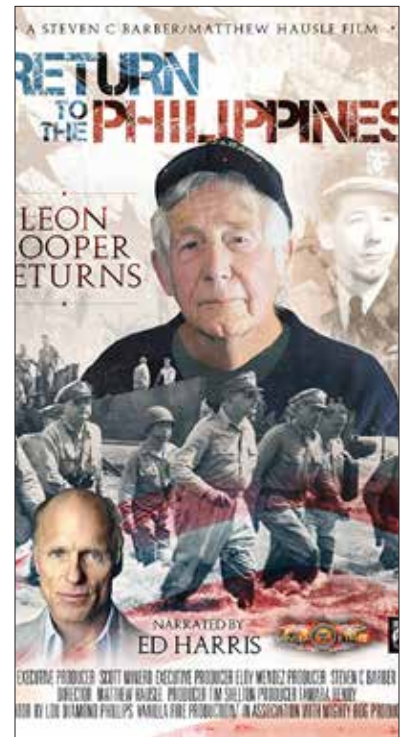
Fairbanks and Anchorage. The winners would qualify for the 2008 Paralympics. One of Barber's aims was to exemplify the oft-repeated truth that disability should not limit the potential of an individual, although he may have to fulfill that potential differently. The overarching mission was "to raise the profile of the disabled athlete and the disabled American." *Unbeaten* premiered at Walter Reed Army Medical Center as encouragement for a group of wounded veterans, who gave it glowing reviews.

Barber went on to direct many other award-winning documentaries in the decade of the 2010's. *Return to the Philippines* features Ed Harris as narrator. (Barber had tried unsuccessfully to convince Clint

Eastwood, a personal friend, to narrate the film.) Tamara Henry recorded Clint Black's song "Coming Home" for the soundtrack. A talented country singer, she often contributes music to Steve's movies. *Return to the Philippines* retells many forgotten tales of valor. One that deserved its own film was Colonel Ed Ramsey's leadership in America's last cavalry charge around beleaguered Bataan. The charge and aftermath are detailed in *Never Surrender*. Col. Ramsey and his men survived the Japanese occupation, organizing guerilla forces against grisly odds. In October 1944, they met General MacArthur when he fulfilled his promise, "I shall return!"

The World's Most Dangerous Paper Route explores the history of the Stars and Stripes, America's military newspaper, and the experiences of the men and women who delivered it, hot off the press, to our homesick troops in Afghanistan.

In continued support of the Paralympics, Barber has produced sportswear ads featuring Blake Leeper. Born missing his lower legs, Leeper runs on flexible prosthetic carbon-fiber blades. In 2012, the University of Tennessee medical student competed in U.S. Track and Field; along with Hunter Woodall, he was one of the first double-amputees to qualify. The scope of Barber's influence is astonishing, given that his publicity took Leeper from "zero to hero in 36 months." "Carborundum" has induced eleven billionaires to fund his endeavors, including editor-turned-politician Steve Forbes and larger-than-life



Texas entrepreneur T. Boone Pickens. The common theme of his documentaries, people who overcome tough circumstances in pursuit of excellence and right, wins hearts as well as imaginations.

The Air and Space Museum, however, was simply not interested. In 2018, Barber approached them



with an artistic concept. The statue would portray the three astronauts—Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Buzz Aldrin—who conquered the Moon. The sculptors were to be the Lundeen Brothers. Based in Loveland, Colorado, Mark and George's statuary firm is the most prestigious in the country. Their themes—sports, animals, faith, and heroes—radiate American exceptionalism. Mark Lundeen's 1997 statue of the late astronaut-turned-Congressman Jack Swigert stands in the Capitol rotunda. The lively yet noble portrayal attracted Steven Barber's notice. He had met Buzz Aldrin at a party in California twenty years earlier. Incidentally, both Aldrin and Collins are West Point alumni, while Jim Lovell, also of Apollo program fame, graduated from Oklahoma Military Academy.

(Neil Armstrong, who attended public schools, passed away in 2012.) Barber, the former astronauts, and the Lundeens made an ideal team; and when the Smithsonian rejected their idea, they partnered instead with the NASA Space Center and Quicken Loans for funding. Barber made a film, *Apollo 11: The Eagle Has Landed*, retelling the story while the Lundeens crafted the statue. Starting with the May 25, 1961 decision to land man on the Moon, the film closes with the astronauts' triumphant return to Earth. The Eagle had landed, and the universe would never again feel quite the same. The Apollo 11 statue was installed in 2019 at the NASA Space Center's Moon Tree Garden.

The success of the monument and film led to another dynamic duo on the harrowing voyage of Apollo 13. The statue features Fred Haise, Jim Lovell, and Jack Swigert, unhurt, unphased, and victorious in failure, disembarking from the helicopter which lifted them out of the Pacific Ocean. An explosion on board their rocket en route to the moon left the astronauts with a limited supply of oxygen and an increasing volume of carbon dioxide. For four days, they piloted themselves home in the cramped confines of the undamaged lunar module. Ingenuity warded off the threat of suffocation with an improvised filter constructed from plastic parts and held together with the adhesive panacea—duct tape. The lunar module splashed down near Fiji on April 17, 1970. Haise, Lovell, and Swigert won the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation's highest civilian honor, for "the greatest successful failure in history." Fittingly, the Lundeens and Barber labored on their monument during another time of trial—the pandemic of 2020. This year the team unveiled a separate statue of Jim Lovell, now 93 and perhaps America's most well-rounded astronaut. He was the first to see the dark side of the moon on the Apollo 8 Christmas Eve expedition in 1968. Later, he visited that sphere twice without ever setting foot on it. In the early 2000's, he ran a family restaurant in his home town of Lake Forest, Illinois, decorated with artifacts from his cosmic career. A Hollywood man, Lovell reenacted his own adventure in the 1995 movie *Apollo 13*. Steven Barber's *Apollo 13: Houston We Have a Problem* is considerably shorter and strictly factual.

Barber's fruitful partnership with the Lundeens continues. One work in progress is a statue of Sally Ride, who in 1983 became the first American woman to fly in space. Sally, an engineer who began working for NASA in 1977, conspicuously promoted science as a viable career for women. The bronze image will be displayed at the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Long Island, NY. Barber would like to see more monuments erected honoring female contributions to our country's history. Currently, more statues exist portraying notable animals than famous women. This deficit leaves room for great artistry to work. In the same vein, a coming *Vanilla Fire* documentary tells the story of Ed Ramsey's sister Nadine, WWII WASP.

As of this writing, Steven Barber is working on a 9-11 commemorative. For about a year, he has been filming the cross-country journey of five Camero cars, arriving at Ground Zero in time for the twentieth anniversary of the terrorist attack. From New York City he shared his thoughts on monuments in general. He evaluates historical figures based on their overall contributions and character and states it is "*absolutely terrible*" that uninformed mobs are tearing down America's "*beacons of history*." As always, he is in constant motion, and utterly absorbed in his work. When asked about film making—and life—he simply says: "**A person may have to try a hundred different things before he succeeds (I did!), but he learns through the process of trying. Even making the best muffins—you have to learn by giving it a try! If you've got a lot of passion, and keep trying, there's no statistical way you can fail. For someone who has passion, everything comes divinely.**"





Front row L - R: **Shawn Ogimachi**, '77, **Herb Maher**, '72, **Luis Marien**, '73, **Brett Thompson**, '75. Second row L - R: **Larry Reed**, '69, **Gordon Metz**, '68, **Doug Driscoll**, '72, **Kurt Benson**, '71, **David Brown**, '73, **Larry Nicholson**, '75. Not pictured: **Ronald Frees**, '61, **Art Hurme**, '61.

Band Company alumni gather at the site of their old Band Barracks

With a total of 12 Band Company cadets attending the 2021 AMA Alumni Reunion September 17-18, the group agreed to form up Saturday afternoon on the site of the old Band Barracks behind the Mess Hall. The photo session didn't go off as planned. First, **Dr. Larry Reed**, '69 forgot about the plan and had to be collected from the Blackburn Inn. Back at AMA, it turned out that Honorary Band Co. member **Doug Pennock**, '72, was off doing official board business and wouldn't be available. Since **Gordon Metz**, '68, was also unaccounted for, it was assumed that he was off with Pennock, so the photo shoot proceeded without him.

Having either forgotten where Band Barracks was located or where the photo was to be taken, Metz (second from left in the top row of the photo) appeared after the first shoot and more photos were taken. Unfortunately, the two oldest alumni, **Ron Frees**, '61, and **Art Hurme**, '61, had wandered off at that point.

Ad Astra Society



James Welch, '49 visits with **Mal Livick**



Lee W. and Jeri and Ed Trott, '61



Tonie and Shawn Ogimachi, '77, **Anne and Herb Maher**, '72, and **Brett Thompson**, '75.

Ad Astra Society members gathered at the Hotel24 South (formerly Stonewall Jackson Hotel) Thursday evening prior to the Reunion. **Tom Del Valle**, '72, spoke to the gathered Ad Astras and their guests. He updated them on the progress the Foundation Board of Directors has made in the last year and the need for more work still to be done, the need for monetary funds, along with pro bono legal counsel, administrative support, and simply hands-on assistance to support the museum and its ongoing mission.

Tom finished by saying, "*As Ad Astra recipients, it would be nice to see us try and lead some of these efforts.*"

Mal Livick gave a brief overview of the Society itself, its founding, history, and mission. Tom ended by thinking **Bob Hume**, '63, for fully funding the gathering and all of his hard work to keep the members of the Society connected.

A total of 25 attended the reception: 14 cadet Ad Astras, Mal Livick (an honorary Ad Astra), and 10 wives and guests.



Stephen Trent, '70 with **Ed**, '50 and **Sue Click**



Phil Bentley, '83 awarded himself the plaque for best score at Friday's Sporting Clay shoot.

Five shooters gathered at the The Flying Rabbit Sporting Clays course in Mt. Crawford. Three of the shooters had never shot a shotgun before.

Participants were: **Phil Bentley, '83**, (event organizer), **Rick Ellett, '72**, **Eddie Thacher** (Scott Travers' neighbor), **Fernando Lorenzana '80**, and **Betty Marroquin** (Fernando's guest, who also came away with a sizable bruise to her shoulder).

Phil shot a 73, Rick shot a 57 & Eddie shot a 48. Phil didn't recall what Fernando & Betty's scores were, but noted that he did shoot more than her.

Phil reported that *"we got started an hour late but once we got everyone on the course we had a good time. We were late in starting so we weren't able to make the lunch at Hoover Hall but Fernando sprang for lunch at the Shenandoah Market on Route 11.*

"Weather was good but there were mosquitoes at the stations in the woods."

Golfing Event(?)

The enthusiasm for golfing has steadily dwindled in recent years.

Golfers have followed the path of "Walter" - missing.

Just two alumni gathered to play this year; **Gary Cripps, '71**, and **Herb Maher, '72**, who met to play golf on Thursday.

Interestingly however, they asked a twosome at the first tee to join them and discovered one of the golfers, Hood Dekle, is the son of the late **John Dekle**, former instructor and staff member at AMA.

They had a nice time and Hood said his father often reminded him that cadet life for him was a *"mere misstep away"*.

Talk about the sword of damocles!

Walter continues to go missing.

The last known whereabouts of Walter, our traveling golf trophy, was at the 2018 Reunion, when it was awarded to the winning team of Ron Harris, Jackson Prentice, Mickey Toms, and Paul Poluito.

If one of you gentlemen are reading this and knows where Walter is, please contact the Museum to make arrangements for its safe return.

Perhaps, just maybe, if we get Walter back, next year's golf event will have a better turnout.



The last known winners of Walter in 2018. The winning team that year: Jack Prentice, Paul Poluito (holding Walter), and Mickey Toms. Not pictured is Ron Harris.

Front Field Sports

The chance to relive their glory days on the front field were given to alumni Friday afternoon. Footballs and lacrosse equipment were provided for alumni to try their hands at what they once were great at. Intern Ainsley Bloomfield 'volunteered' her brother and sister to track down the balls and return them to the pavilion. Lacrosse equipment was loaned to us for the day by Fishburne Military School lacrosse coach Sam Knight. Footballs were purchased for the event and donated to FMS afterwards.





Jack Barrett, '50, visited the museum with his wife **Betty**, and son and grandson **Eli**. Docent **Chris Correa** said, "A very cool guy with great AMA stories. It was a pleasure meeting him."



Russell Amidon, '68, Band Company, proudly displays in his home this needlepoint of the barracks. He says that at his graduation, his grandmother handed him a wrapped present stating, "You may not appreciate it now, but in a few years you will." She was right as he proudly displays it and absolutely refuses to part with it.

Prior to signing up to attend the AMA reunion I had opportunity to speak with a colleague and friend, **Russell Amidon, '68**. In our conversation he told me he was in band company and when the record player went out he had to get up every morning to play reveille on his horn; then every evening play taps.

I explained I was going to attend the AMA reunion this year and asked if he could join me. It was at this point he said his schedule prohibits him from going.

In any case we talked awhile about our AMA experiences.

He then directed my attention to a framed wall hanging in his den area. (See above) Here I saw an extremely unique needle point tapestry. It was of the AMA Barracks. I asked where it came from. He said his Grandmother made it for him. He continued, "I really wanted a car and on graduation day when his Grandmother came to the ceremony he anxiously looked at all the cars to see if she had actually gotten him the car he truly wanted."

Unfortunately, he saw no such vehicle. Needless to say, he still had high hopes she would take him to the car he desperately expected. Instead, and after the ceremony she handed him a nicely wrapped small flat present and said "I know you wanted a car but I think this is something that you will cherish in the years to come."

With this he opened the gift to find she had made a needle point tapestry of the AMA barracks with dates he attended. An extremely "nice" gift but not a car! He then told me he was terribly disappointed but loving his grandmother is he did, he gave her a big hug and thanked her.

Chris,

10-1-21

I want to thank you for your time, research, and personal attention while looking into my father, William George Klinder's, time at AMA. These are such precious treasures to me, as they provide a peak into part of his life that I never knew.

I truly appreciate you, from the very depths of my heart.

I can only assume he left AMA to join the military when he turned 18, hence never finishing his final year. Sadly, this story will rest with him. As he passed on January 27, 2019, I won't be able to confirm or deny this information.

You are a wonderful soul for helping put puzzles together of the lives of our loved ones, and therefore, invaluable to someone like me. God bless you in your future endeavors. Cordially,



Christopher Correa has spent his first 30 years in California. Born in San Diego and living in San Luis Obispo, he never expected to leave the West Coast, but on a hunch, he came to Bridgewater Virginia in 2017 for a new start.

He misses the ocean, but for a history major and nature lover, the Shenandoah Valley is even better than home. The AMA Museum has given him his first opportunity since college to be immersed in history. He

calls sharing stories of the people and events that shaped AMA and the valley a fantastic reason to come to work. Christopher says, "I've waited 20 years for this job. It's a privilege to be here."

As the years passed by, he realized the amount of effort and work that went into this needle point and as she said, he really appreciates it. It proudly hangs on the wall in his home.

What an outstanding piece of artwork I would love to own! At this point, I offered to buy it and take it off his hands. Needless to say, he declined saying he will never get rid of it because, as his grandmother said he truly does appreciate what she had done for him. And, "It sure beats the hell out of a car." Since he declined to sell or give it to me, I said, "Then the least you can do is to put me in your will so when you croak, it'll be bequeath to me."

With that I took a photograph of the tapestry and now plan to Photoshop out his graduation dates and send it to a company that in puts photos on a canvas and a nice frame to proudly hang it on my wall.

Since he didn't have time in his busy schedule to attend the reunion he did agree that I could send you this little tale so it might end up in the Bayonet.

Finally, I also want you to know that I had a great time at the reunion. Although I didn't know everybody, I thoroughly enjoyed our time together as well as other old cadets I spoke with and shared stories. It's a real shame the barracks is in such disarray.

Sincerely,
Tom Douglas
1960 - 1962

Local First Responders

... answer the call for assistance during Reunion 2021



Museum director, **Amy Langford**, reached out to our two local fire departments for their assistance in preparing Friday and Saturday's breakfasts and in hanging our American flag in the gym.

While both companies were called out during the time they had allocated to helping us, their contribution to the reunion was non-the-less valuable, and very much appreciated.

By way of thanks, the Reunion Committee authorized the purchase of a new microwave for the Verona FD firehouse, and a private donation was made to the New Hope Volunteer Fire Department in Fort Defiance for their assistance.

After two months of requested silence, the story has been finally told of the efforts of **Larry Nicholson**, '75, and **Bruce Hemp** in rescuing Afghan nationals who assisted Larry's efforts during his time commanding Marine units in the Helmand province. This story was published in the New York Times on October 19.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/19/world/us-veterans-afghan-evacuation.html?searchResultPosition=3>



Members of the class of 1975 **Brett Thompson**, **John Hash**, **Larry Nicholson**, and **John Arthur**, are photo-bombed by **Jim Mitchell**, '76

Lost Ad Astra Society Journal

There is a journal that General Roller kept from day one. It had, in his own handwriting, a statement of purpose. The names of those selected were entered by the General each year. After his death, Mal Livick took over that role.

That journal was in the alumni office at one point, but has disappeared. Steve Trent has a faint memory of someone borrowing it, but he doesn't remember who that was or why they borrowed it.

At any rate, Major Roller had the idea of an organization to recognize the best of the best. The idea came on his way home from Europe at the end of WWI. He thought about an Ad Astra fraternity, but didn't want it to be a fraternity in any sense, so he called it a society.

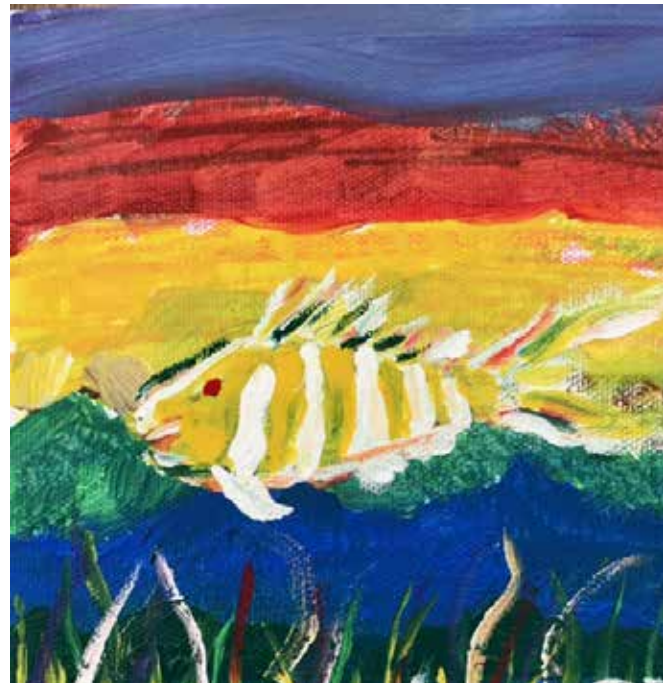
He put his idea into being in 1925 when the first cadets were selected. He wrote June 3, 1925 as he entered the first members. Every year from 1925, cadets were chosen. There wasn't any specific number of cadets – some years had a few, others had up to ten.

General Roller wrote on the front page of the journal *"we do not court popularity, but we do place service above self. And loyalty next to Godliness."* He also noted there was never any written criteria — any Ad Astra still in school nominated, as did faculty and administrative staff. Those nominations were tallied and the top were inducted. They were ranked by the number of votes. My brothers graduated in 1957 and were numbers 7 and 8. I graduated in 1963 and was number 7. Each faculty member was free to make their own criteria for selection,

It was definitely not an academic recognition.

We should make a concerted effort to find the journal – so much history...

Bob Hume



Tom Douglas', '62, painting .

Francis Collins, AMA Day Student in 1959, and the director of the National Institutes of Health, announced his resignation Tuesday, saying he will step down from his post by the end of 2021.



"I am proud of all we've accomplished. I fundamentally believe, however, that no single person should serve in the position too long, and that it's time to bring in a new scientist to lead the NIH into the future," Collins said in a statement to Fox News. *"I'm most grateful and proud of the NIH staff and the scientific community, whose extraordinary commitment to lifesaving research delivers hope to the American people and the world every day."*

The 71-year-old physician-geneticist, who oversaw the research center for 12 years, aims to return to the National Human Genome Research Institute, the Washington Post reported. The lab is a branch of NIH.

Belated thanks go out to **Bugles Across America** for **Don Floyd's** playing taps as part of our Museum's Memorial Day services.

If you ever find the need for a bugler to sound TAPS, contact them at:

<https://www.buglesacrossamerica.org/>

YOU can do your share in preserving the history and legacy of Augusta Military Academy by doing three simple things:

1. Making monetary donations to the AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc. by going to our website at <https://amaalumni.org/donate/>
2. Join our official Facebook group (**Augusta Military Academy Museum Group**) and share your stories, photos and memories on our social media presence
3. Clean out your attic and send anything AMA related to the museum for inclusion in our vast collection of artifacts, photographs and relics.

Please help us keep Augusta Military Academy alive in the minds and hearts of the future generations.

Victor Gomez, '69, honored

"In gratitude for going above and beyond in your efforts at the Augusta Military Academy."

These words inscribed on the eagle Victor received on Saturday evening don't even begin to tell the full story of Victor's love and dedication to AMA.

Victor hails from the Dominican Republic. He came to AMA in 1965 and graduated after five years in 1969. Even during his cadet days, Victor distinguished himself as being a helper in many roles, including working on decorating for the Final Ball all five years, and graduating as a Master Sergeant on the Honor Guard and Roller Rifles his final year.

Victor lived for many years in Centerville, Virginia. Even living over 2 hours from Fort Defiance, Victor became a regular volunteer at the AMA Museum. Upon retiring, Victor decided to move to Waynesboro, to get away from the hustle and bustle of Northern Virginia, and more importantly, to be closer to Fort Defiance. Since his move, he became the most regular volunteer we've ever had, logging thousands of hours doing anything asked of him.

Victor is the voice of AMA on Facebook. His love of photography has resulted in thousand of photos being taken at just about every event held. In fact, most of the photos in this edition of the Bayonet were taken by Victor. He has been a docent at the museum, giving tours and welcoming back alumni for many years.

I can think of no one more deserving of this award than Victor Gomez.



Hoover Hall lives again.

For the first time ever, Hoover Hall was the venue for various reunion events. Two breakfasts, one lunch, an art class, and hundreds of conversations occupied the site where most of us took our classes during our time at AMA.

The owners of the campus, United Pentecostal Church International, renovated the building when they first purchased the campus in the 1990's. This included converting the middle floor, where our classrooms were, into a dining hall, complete with a commercial grade kitchen. We were allowed access to these facilities during the weekend. We also met for our general membership meetings in the Big Room.



Bayonet Subscriptions

As announced in our Fall 2020 edition, Bayonets will no longer be printed and mailed to everyone on our mailing list. This was strictly a financial decision. We simply can no longer afford to do so.

But, professionally printed color copies of this and future Bayonets will be made available to those who wish to subscribe.

Museum Director **Amy Hensley** will manage subscriptions and mail Bayonets from the museum.

All inquiries regarding Bayonet subscriptions should be addressed directly to Amy at museum@AMAalumni.org or 540-248-3007.

The cost will be \$25 per issue or \$90 for a yearly subscription.



Thank you
Use Code Roller10
For 10% off
Your purchase at our
Online PX Gift Shop
www.amaalumni.org

Shop at smile.amazon.com and a portion of your purchase comes back to our Museum. It cost you nothing, it costs US nothing, But you must start out at SMILE.amazon.com.

You can select which charity to support when you first go there. Choose **Augusta Military**

Academy Alumni Foundation Inc.

Kiki Rovirosa, wife of **Jorge Rovirosa**, '72, generously shared her time and talent in leading a group of reunion attendees into what was for many their first foray into the world of artistic painting Friday Afternoon. Thank you, Kiki, for providing your guidance, instruction and supplies for a most enjoyable afternoon's activity.



Tom Douglas, '62 (above), **Lillian Fernandez** and intern **Ainsley Bloomfield** (below), **Trudy Pennock** (lower left) and **Becky Granger** (lower right) were among the many aspiring artists who tried their hand at painting.



Founder's Day Ceremony



Guests and ALumni were welcomed by **Larry Nicholson, '75**, followed by the invocation by **Gordon Metz, '68**. The colors were posted by **Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership** cadets from **Mary Baldwin University** followed by the firing of our school cannon. **Nicky Syropolous, '69**, portraying Professor Roller, spoke of the Professor's tales of founding of what we know today as Augusta Military Academy. Following this, those beloved alumni, faculty and staff, and friends of Augusta Military School who have passed away since our last gathering at the Old Stone Church cemetery were rendered due honors by the reading of their names, followed by the playing of Taps. Finally a wreath was set at the foot of Professor Roller's tomb by Foundation Chairman **Doug Pennock, '72**, and Association President **Steve Trent, '70**.



Angus Hines, '42
Windsor H. Bissell, '43
John Livingston Codling, '44
Peter B. Lambert, '44
Henry R. Rosebro, Jr., '44
Franklin Eugene Green, '45
Bruce Melcher, '45
Taylor Woody, '45
Goodrich English White, Jr., '46
Robert S. Lappin, '46
William Craft Owen, '46
Bobby Webb Bowie, '47
Edwin E. Childs, '47
Charles M. Winston, Sr., '47
Melvin James Bazemore, '48
Alan Diamonstein, '48
Archie C. Holliday, '48
Stuart Nelson, '48
Stagg Saunders, '48
James Ward Councill, '49
Jack Burt Jacobson, '49
Clyde Ramsey, '49
Thomas H. Clements, Jr. '50
Thomas Mac Saunders, '50
Ben Angle, '51
Peter R. Newman, '51
Frank S. Tulloss, Jr., '51
Allan Joseph Doyle, '52
Joseph Peyton Moore, Sr., '52
Cole W. Sandridge, Jr., '52
James I. White, '52

John Joseph Fox, Jr., '53
Hampton W. Foley, '55
Howard Harner, '55
James C.D. Hume, '57
Donald Radford, '57
Paul "Jerry" Wildman, '57
Hugh Harmon, '58
George G. Petty, '58
Donald Radford, '58
Palmer Barton Weeks, '58
James W. Yates, IV, '58
Adam Keene Byrd, '59
Carl Rodger Morris, '59
John T. Rahe, '59
Charles Elliott Ridge, '59
Thomas Skinner Brothers, '60
Mitch Gaston, '60
Glan Philip Robinson, '60
Robert Stafford White, '60
Ronald H. Baker, '61
Roger Boyce, '61
Joseph Holmes Burnett, '61
James Floyd Crawford, '61
James A. Blackwell, '62
Frederick Cazenave, Jr., '63
John Einstein, III, '63
Robert D. Gorgrant, Jr., '63
John "Jack" Schwarzmunn, '63
John Hipp, '64
David R. Holdingen, '64
Vaughn Jones, '64

Joseph G. Morrow, '64
Henry O. Nicol, '64
Ralph Jackson Leonards, '65
Thomas Matthews, '65
Charlse S. Kiser, Jr., '66
John William Pierpoint, '66
Peter P. .Roenke, '66
William L. Shorts, Jr., '66
Scott Wooten, '66
Ronald Duane Hatcher, '67
Gregory Paul, '67
Steven Fox, '68
Bill Baeder, '69
George Lee Reaves, '69
Bill Scarborough, '69
Keith May, '70
John Joseph McGraw, '70
Larry "Stride" Coleman, '72
Douglas M. Carter, '72
Louis E. Suter, '72
Alfredo Zayas, '72
Wayne Scott Vincent, '73
Dwight Van Nitz, '74
Ricardo Samperio, '75
Hector Celis, '83

Captain Charles Dillow, Faculty
Virginia Hilton Hallock, Family
Linda Roller Livrick, Family
Daniel David Parrish, Faculty
Col. David A. Rapp, Faculty

Professor Charles Summerville Roller makes a rare appearance

Larry Nicholson, '75, introduced **Nicky Syropolous, '69.**

"In April of 1865 after being captured and released by the Union Army in the final days of the Civil War Charles Roller left Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox courthouse with his horse and made his way back to Mount Sydney, Virginia. To tell that story, please welcome our own Nicky Syropolous, class of 69, who will be portraying Professor Roller during that time in history."

Professor Roller (Nicky Syropolous):

The boys, as usual, have played a prank on me and taken my glasses.

My name is **Charles Summerville Roller**. I was born in 1839 in Mt. Sidney, Virginia. I was the oldest of seven. Four of my siblings died before they reached the age of six so, I grew up with a brother two years younger and another 15 years younger.

There were no public schools in the area, but I received my education at Mossy Creek Academy. Jedediah Hotchkiss was the principle until that academy closed when the war broke out. Jed Hotchkiss became the Cartographer for Major General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson and continued this trade as long as I knew him. We stayed lifelong friends. In fact, he delivered the Commencement Address at AMA in June of 1898.

My father was a farmer and a merchant. He became the local Post Master. I too, became the postmaster after the war.

I was in my sophomore year at the University of Virginia when the war broke out in 1861. Three days after the Battle of Bull Run, I left the University and joined General J.E.B. Stuart from the 1st Virginia Cavalry Regiment to fight for the Confederacy, I was in Company E which was formed in Waynesboro. We were known as the Valley Rangers or the Augusta Rangers because we were composed almost exclusively of men from Augusta County.

We fought at Port Republic, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Spotsylvania, Cedar Creek and many other places during those four years.

On April 8th, 1865, I was riding as a courier for General Fitzhugh Lee when I was thrown from my horse, slightly injured and captured during the Battle of Appomattox. I spent one night as a POW until General Lee determined it was necessary to end this war.

It was the next day, on April 9th, that he handed

over his sword to Grant and I was released. It was a solemn sight, almost unbearable. Yet, our supply's had diminished, our men were tired, underfed, low on ammunition and even lower on spirit.

The trip from Appomattox to Mount Sidney was a challenge ... some 62 miles as the crow flies. The roads were difficult, most all houses & barns had been burned. The ones that weren't were in poor repair and needed attention.

It was a time when the fields in the Valley should be prepared for planting. Yet, there was nothing but barren land. Destruction was everywhere.

On my third day, I picked up the Valley Pike somewhere about 18 miles south of here. And I couldn't stop myself from thinking about the soldiers who'd fought beside me. The ones who we lost and the ones who survived.

The ambition welled up inside of me wouldn't stop. I wanted to help the Confederacy somehow, but how?

At a local tavern, I was reminiscing about the war over a beverage with my friends, and more bad news

arrived. President Lincoln had been assassinated while watching a play with his wife in Ford's Theater in Washington City. It was only five days after the surrender and the news added to my already crushed feelings about the South's future.

It became clear, very clear to me at that moment. What was needed was education, intellect, wrapping my arms around my fellow Southerners and helping them reach their potential. I had the ability, and it was at that moment that I decided to postpone my intentions of returning to UVA to pursue my Law Degree.

Me and my brother, Court, while drinking in the local Mt. Sidney tavern, had often been asked by veterans to start teaching. It was plain to see, I would be more effective improving the minds of men, than I would using a hammer or a plow horse.

So, at the age of 26, I joined my friend C.M. Packer who was a teacher at the Old Stone Church over there, and began teaching veterans.

In 1866 I became the principle of the Old Fort Academy and taught in an old brick building on the grounds of the church. The cost for a 5-month term in Advanced English and Languages was \$45.00. A few years later I was elected to the Virginia State





By 1880 the AMA campus had become quite extensive. This photo of the AMA campus from Church Hill gives an oblique view of the campus. The main school complex is shown to the left. There was an addition of a second academic building in line with the first one. To the right is a windmill. To the far right of the photo are some of the "cottages" which housed the boarding students.

Legislature and served for about 16 months. I didn't seek re-election as my attention was needed at the school.

I married Rosabelle Moorman in 1874 and we soon purchased land just south of here. I built a home, it's where your museum is today. We lived upstairs and taught downstairs.

The beds for the boarding students were wooden with rope springs and mattresses stuffed with corn husks. We supplied a corn oil lamp for night study, but the students had to supply their own oil. Each room had two water basins and two pails, one for hauling water, the other a slop pail, Saturday was wood chopping day. The sooner the boys would fill the chopped wood to the desired level, the sooner they would be released for recreation. Saturday night we all gathered for the Literary Society which included debate, elocution and declamation.

I'd begun with the name Augusta Male Academy, added Military influence and changed it to Augusta Classical and Military Academy, and a few years later changed the name to Augusta Military Academy.

The 1880's curriculum consisted of Greek, Latin, French, Spanish, German, English, U.S. History, Algebra, Elocution, Physics, Word Analysis, English Literature and Surveying.

I was nearsighted, so I was usually sitting up straight so I could see the students from the bottom of my spectacles.

When a cadet's grades started to slip, I'd bring the students to my study to do their homework in the evenings. They didn't think I knew, but on occasion,

they'd sneak a pinch of my pipe tobacco from the box on my mantle. I didn't mind the boys having a pipe on occasion, but cigarettes were taboo.

I briefly suspended operating the Academy between 1883-1884 as I was appointed as principal of the Virginia School for the Deaf & Blind. But as my passion was teaching, after a year, I returned full time to the Academy.

Rosabelle and I had four children, three boys and girl. William served as the Academy's physician. Thomas and Charles Jr. taught and served as administrators. Maggie taught and helped her brothers with their duties.

The boys continued to keep the Academy going after my death in 1907... they tore down most of the old structures to make way for the Big Room, the Barracks, the Gymnasium.

I'm proud that my sons continued the vocation of educating young minds, and I'm honored that the Alumni of my academy continues to celebrate Founder's Day.

God Bless & Thank you

Larry Nicholson:

"Thank you Professor Roller and thank you, Nicky. What you just heard was the beginning history of our beloved academy. The story doesn't end there. What remains from this rich history is the Professor's sons and his great-granddaughter's husband, Colonel Mal Livick who all kept the academy open during magnificent and not so magnificent times, and the Alumni, Faculty, and Staff who lived here, were schooled here or taught or coached here. We all remain to tell the stories and keep the Legacy alive."

Faculty members honored at Reunion

The theme of the night at Friday evening's festivities at the Frontier Cultural Museum was **"Honoring AMA's Faculty and Staff"**.

Three HUGE posters listed every faculty and staff who had ever served the cadets of AMA.

A grog ceremony was held during which four alumni were asked to contribute to the grog: **Tom Del Valle, '73, Jim Mitchell, '76, Nicky Syropolous, '69, and Tommy Pressly, '67.**

After their contributions were mixed into the grog, Grog Master, **Tom Del Valle, '73**, (ably assisted by **Brett Thompson, '75**) after tasting the brew, declared the grog to be *completely unfit* to drink, and that more spirits were needed.

At that time four faculty and staff were asked to participate by giving a brief talk about their time at AMA and what it meant to them, followed by each pouring the contents of a bottle of spirits into the grog bowl.

Don Studer, Elaine Huffman, Tim Mannasmith, and Dave Trimble were thusly honored, being allowed to tell us what AMA and this honor meant to them.

Finally, the grog was deemed drinkable (?) and cups were filled and distributed to all dinner guests.



The smoking grog bowl



Jim Mitchell, '76, adding to the grog



Tom Del Valle, '73 serves up the grog
as **Trudy Pennock** holds a tray of cups

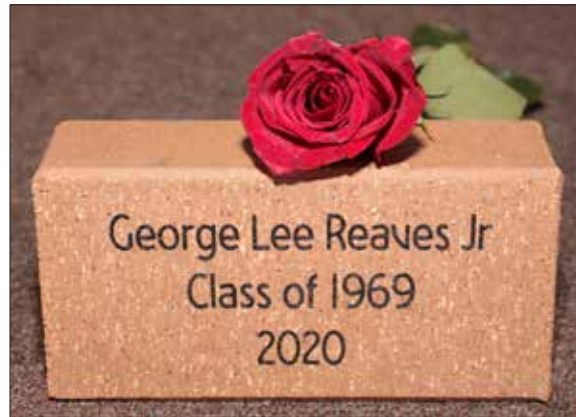


Tom and Brett setting up the grog bowl

A complete listing of all faculty and staff can be found at <https://amaalumni.org/history/faculty/>

Roller Society honorees: George Reaves '69, and Angus Hines, '42

In tribute to their thoughtfulness in bequeathing gifts to AMA upon their demise, paver bricks to be placed in the Roller Society Garden section in front of the museum were unveiled. As is our tradition, roses were placed on the bricks during the Saturday lunch presentations. **Garry Granger, '70**, placed the rose on Angus Hine's brick and **Herb Maher, '72**, placed the rose on George Reaves' brick.



Becky and Ed Clymore were onhand to receive the donated supplies

School supplies given to Clymore Elementary School in Fort Defiance

The AMA Alumni Foundation joined forces with the Augusta County community to purchase and donate school supplies for the underprivileged children of Clymore Elementary School of Ft. Defiance.

Approximately \$1,600 was collected from the AMA Alumni Foundation and members of the Foundation Board and their spouses, and fellow alumni.

Amy Hensley, AMA's Museum Director, purchased the supplies such as pencils, crayons, earbuds, notebooks and wet wipes, delivered them personally to the school Principal on Wednesday August 4. The teachers expressed their surprise at the amount of supplies donated.

Ed Clymore, whom the school is named after, was an instructor and coach at AMA, and later went on to teach at Fort Defiance.

Thank you to everyone that donated or collaborated with this worthwhile community outreach program!

Legacy Preservation Corps

Who will keep our legacy alive once the Tower of Power's bottle of Virginia Gentleman is uncorked and the last two alumni drink and offer up a toast to the memory of AMA?

That is the question to be answered by the Legacy Preservation Corps. It will consist of the descendants of AMA alumni and friends of AMA whose task will be to keep the Legacy of Augusta Military Academy alive.

They will be tasked with enthusiastically managing the Museum and our vast collection of artifacts, in whatever form they take in the future, passing on the history of our Academy to future generations, and donating time and energy to preserving our rich history.

I encourage you to share this information with your sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters and encourage them to be a part of a dedicated group of interested individuals from the AMA extended family who can re-tell our stories and share the rich history of our Academy.

If you know someone interested in being part of this future of AMA, direct them to Amy at the museum, 540-248-3007 or museum@AMAalumni.org.



Miss Ashley Jones, grand-daughter of **Buddy Krise, '57**, and 2020 scholarship recipient has an admiration and love for AMA that rivals most alumni. Ashley volunteered to help during the reunion and will play a prominent role in the Legacy Preservation Corps.

Reunion Fundraisers Brought in Record Amount

Online Auction results: 29 of the 64 items listed on the online auction site were sold for a total amount of \$2809. The pistol raffle brought in \$4,550. Wine (donated) sold at the banquet bringing in \$220. Tower of Power garnered \$408 in donations. 50/50 tickets for \$250 were sold. The Saturday sports-on-the-front-field netted \$210. And the Barracks donation box gathered in \$219.

From the registrations, contributions to the Bayonet amounted to \$910, the Scholarship fund, \$720, and Museum Operating fund \$1,370.

All told, reunion attendees and auction bidders donated nearly \$12,000 to our cause.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks from the AMA Alumni Foundation.

It is our pleasure to announce that thanks to the hard work and patience of our brother Alumni **Warren Fleming, '72**, the Augusta Military Academy Alumni Foundation has been awarded a grant for the amount of \$11,900 from University of Virginia's SHARP program. The grant funds are to be used for mitigating any losses our organization has incurred due to COVID.

Thanks goes to **Tom Del Valle's, '73**, leadership via his Fundraising committee, **bj d'Orsay's** editing prowess, but most especially, Warren Fleming for his tenacity and patience in identifying and writing the grant request in a manner that UVA found very convincing!

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) program Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan, or SHARP, provides funds to nonprofit organizations in need and to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the coronavirus. These SHARP Grants will help support the recovery and revitalization of museums, libraries, archives, historic sites, and other nonprofits impacted by the pandemic in Virginia.

Tom Del Valle, Fundraising Committee chair, had this to say when our grant was announced, "To be clear, Warren took the lead on this effort and drove it to the finish line! Our fundraising committee is interested in "results" and Warren delivered. For the past 4 months he has been focused on this grant and the exhaustive process to secure it for AMA!" **Well done Warren. From all of us, thank you, Sir!**



Save the date for Reunion 2022, September 9 - 11

Kudos for the Museum

Judging from the comments in our Museum's guest book,
I'd say the staff at the museum is doing an excellent job!

"Chris is wonderful!!"

"Wonderful experience, very educational"

"Very nice and respectful. Glad to see it still exists!"

"Recently moved to Staunton; fascinated with AMA since the 70s"

"Great place; my dad passed in 2010, but I enjoyed visiting and remembering his memories."

"Amazing and love the history"

"Thanks! Was 8-10 years old when my brother attended - Part of my childhood. Chris was Awesome!"

"Been driving by for years; finally decided to stop in"

"Good interaction with staff."

"Great tour. Wish it were alive."

"Grew up in Staunton and attended many SMA v. AMA games. Thanks!"

"Family history; Keep up the good work!"

"Enjoyed video, displays, and representative - very informative!"

"Came here to see my roots and was blown away."

"Great tour & guide"

"VMI still remembers you. Cool to see a little VMI."

"Nice job with museum"

"Guide was very good :)"

"Wonderful! Loved every minute!"

"My father Johns "Johnny" Millard attended AMA. I enjoyed my visit. Thank you."

"Excellent school. I enjoyed the tour!"

"Very nice young man and nice place."

"Great job by those who are carrying on!"

"Thanks! Great collection!"

"Thank you very much for your work and service"

"Wonderful place of history!!"

"Nice job gang"

"Love the history here!"

"Nice, lots of good memories"

"Thank you for keeping the academy alive!"

"Drove by last year and saw the building. Had to come back and take a tour!!:)"

"Glad to be back"

"Chris is very informative, knows history well"

"Absolutely amazing"

"Super awesome to learn about everything!"

"Always wonderful to be back! In honor of Mom!"

"Keep up the memories for everyone!"

"Chris was very informative...God bless"

"Thanks so much for all the hard work & dedication to continue the history & memories of AMA"

"Love and best docent ever"

"Great presentation from Chris"

"Looked Dad up in the yearbook--neat!"

"Mr. Gomez was very informative and gave an excellent tour."

"Amazing staff!"

"Impressive collection"

"Chris was fantastic describing AMA!"

"Great experience to see this Academy"

"Our tour guide Cris was very nice and a great place"

"Thank you so much for a wonderful tour"

"Our tour was wonderful!!!"

"I absolutely love this place!"

"Thanks for a great tour :)"

"Wonderful way to spend our anniversary :) Thanks"

"Amazing tour. What makes this place special are the stories"

"We loved our tour! Thank you!"

"Great visit--my grandfather, Louis Reynier Samet, attended AMA in the early 1920's"

"Great place, lovely atmosphere, and fantastic tour guide"

"Very interesting and helpful in understanding post-Civil War times."

"Great tour from Chris. Fun and renewed interest in AMA."



Friday afternoon, **Jorge Rovirosa, '72**, and **Doug Pennock, '72**, welcomed **Jason MiYares**, member of the Virginia House of Delegates and candidate for Virginia Attorney General, giving him a full tour of our museum.



Emmett Hanger, Jr., Virginia District 24 Senator shown here with **Garry Granger, '71**, and **Jorge Rovirosa, '70**, joined us for our Saturday Evening banquet at the Blackburn Inn. Raised in Fort Defiance, and educated at Fort Defiance High School, Sen. Hanger had the opportunity to learn much of what AMA alumni are all about.

Many thanks go out to EVERYONE who had a part in making this year's reunion one of the best!

In no particular order: **Jack White**-Oysters; **Verona Fire Department**-Helping serve and prepare breakfast on Friday; **New Hope Fire Department**-Hanging the American Flag in the gym and helping serve and clean up for Saturday's breakfast; **Yamaha Golf Cart**-Donation of the six (6) passenger Golf Cart; **Phil Bentley**-Scholarship Chair and organizing the Friday Clay Shoot; **Rich vanBreemen**-Transporting the golf cart, handling the displays for the faculty & Staff posters, arranging the color guard and the bugler; **Mike Kidd**-Barracks Donation Box, Sound system in the cemetery, canon jerker; **Karen & Lee Ramsey**-Pitching in wherever needed; **John Arthur**-SHOF Chair, AMAAF Secretary, SILVER Sponsor, All around helper; **Nicky Syropoulos**-GROG participant, Portraying Professor Roller (Founders Day); **Tommy Pressly**-GROG Participant; **Jim Mitchell**-GROG Participant, SHOF Inductee; **Tom Del Valle**-Coming early and wrapping up numerous items, GROG MASTER, AMAAF Fund Raising Chairman, PLATINUM Sponsor; **Brett Thompson**-GROG Container, American Flags posted around the campus, GOLD Sponsor; **Coach David Trimble**-GROG participant; **Elaine Huffman**-GROG Participant; **Steve Trent**-AMAAA President, Keeper of the Hospitality Suite, GOLD Sponsor; **B J d'Orsay**-Taking pictures, Bayonet Editor, coming early to help, being a PLATINUM Sponsor; **Larry Nicholson**-Founder's Day Master of Ceremonies, SILVER Sponsor; **Gordon Metz**-Chaplin, SILVER sponsor; **Brenda Metz**-Bringing delicious cookies/On call Nurse; **Larry Reed**-On call Doctor; **Doug Pennock**-AMAAF Chairman, Front Field Sports leader, GOLD Sponsor; **Don Studer**-Coming early to help, setting up the gym, helping in many ways, GOLD Sponsor; **Amy Hensley**-Museum Director, Overseer of Cart driver; **The Blackburn Culture Museum**-Hosting & Staff; **Ricardo Prado Sr.**-a DIAMOND sponsor; **Frank** the Bus Tour; **Scott Travers**-of Friday's Lunch, SILVER Helping Scott Travers; **Trudy** event and driving the Ladies Doing anything asked of her; asked of her and leading the on Friday afternoon; **Mary** Guard; **Victor Gomez**-Pistol spearheading the Latin Helping with anything, making AMA Masks; **Ainsley Bloomfield**-AMA Drawing, AMA Museum Intern/Staff; **Chris Correra**-Docent Extraordinaire, AMA Museum Staff, managing PX sales; **Senator Emmett Hangar**-Republican 24th District / R2021 visitor; **Delegate Jason Miyares**-Republican 82nd District / R2021 Visitor; **Ashley Jones**-Do-anything volunteer, 2020 Scholarship recipient, Legacy Preservation Corps; **Linda Roller Livick Family**-SILVER Sponsor; **Bob Hume**-Arranging and funding the Ad Astra Cocktail Party; **Jimmy vanBreemen**-Last minute run for mixers; **Kelly vanBreemen**-Bartender; **Ariel Crossan**-Bartender; **Ed Rogerville**-SILVER Sponsor; **Jim Belcher**-Speaker at Noble Legends, Leader of the legacy Preservation Corps; **Virginia Hallock Family**-SILVER Sponsors; **Susan Yates**-SILVER Sponsor, AMA Honorary Alumnus; **Bruce Hemp**-Post Reunion Country Breakfast, Honorary Marine and AMA Alumnus; **Tim Mannasmith**-GROG Participant, SHOF Inductee, Faculty; **Mike Basto**-On-Line donations, SHOF Inductee; **Fishburne Military School**-Blessing of the Flags and Sports equipment; **PostNet Flower Mound, TX**-Printing Services; **Paul Langford**-Masks & Hand Sanitizer; **Brian & Sue Hart**-Registration, SILVER Sponsor; **Shenandoah Trophies and Awards**-Shirts; **Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church**-Friends of AMA; **Billy Sturgis**-50/50 & Tower of Power salesmanship; **Brian Miller**-50/50 winner and donating his winnings back (Thank You); **Tom Phillips & Bill Bissett**-SMA '74, thanks for coming to dinner Friday night; **Marc Aronson**-Diamond Sponsor; **Bill McVey**-GOLD Sponsor; **Warren Fleming**-GOLD Sponsor; **Gary Cripps**-SILVER sponsor; **Garry Granger**-Co-Chair R2021, MC Grog Ceremony, Script Writer, SILVER Sponsor; **Ricky Ellett** - SILVER Sponsor; **Dr. Mary DeCredico**-US Naval Academy, Past Member AMA Board of Trustees, SILVER Sponsor; **Mid Valley Press, Verona, Va**; **Paul Langford, Va Beach, Va. Va Power Motor Sports, Ruckersville, Va**; **Food Lion, Verona, Va**; **Blackburn Inn and Conference Center, Staunton, Va**; **Hotel 24 South, Staunton, Va**-In Kind Contributors to R2021



reunion; **Tim Hensley**-Gold Inn-Hosting R2021; **Frontier** the Tribute to the Faculty Playing the drums and being **Williamson**-Donations for Donation and preparation Sponsor; **Eddie Thatcher-Pennock**-Help with every of AMA; **Becky Granger-Kiki Rovirosa**-Doing anything Painting Creativity session **Baldwin University**-Color Raffle, help with anything, alumni; **Evelyn Gomez**-

The life of a RAT in 1928 - Part Three

Augustus Charlton "Bud" Mewborn, III, '32, from Pittsburgh, came to AMA in the Fall of 1928. He was a Private in "D" Company. After graduating, Bud went on to graduate from the literature school of the University of Michigan, and then went on to earn a Law Degree. He was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity. Later in life, he wrote a 190 page memoir of his time spent at AMA. The following excerpt is the third part of his memories of his first year as a RAT.

We've all experienced returning to AMA after our first Christmas break. Or our first formal dance ... read on!



Winterset

When we came back to school after Christmas vacation there was a letdown. It's funny. I guess I had looked forward to going home for Christmas and wearing my new uniform everywhere I could think of, and there were a lot of times and places. I had never been so well dressed.

I had my regular uniform: fatigue coat, windbreaker, the whole outfit including the full dress and caped overcoat. There were some parties with some of my old friends, and the dancing school had a Christmas Ball. My mother gave a party and I wore the fatigue coat in restrained good taste. The collar began to cut my neck long before the guests began to leave. I had a sort of date with Lucille, and we tried to tie together the loose ends from summer, but she seemed to be in awe of me, as if I were already a general. The parties themselves were not so bad, but the days never lived up to the nights; the Pittsburgh snow was only white for a short time, and the cold was brutal. We kept the car in a garage a block away, but several times my father left it parked outdoors in front of the apartment where it would never start in the morning, so he would have to take the streetcar to work, grumbling as he left.

Not too many days had passed when I began to think about going back to Augusta, and as the time went on I lost interest in showing myself off. In fact, I began to feel out of place; it was time to get back.

This time I would be retracing the trip. The B & O to Martinsburg, then the bus south on the Valley Pike back to school. I had to put up with New Year's, of course, but then I left on the second of January. My folks stood by for the train to start, and we shuffled in the cold until

the call "Board" came. Chick Nash and the Yons and Messmore and Rainiers and the Cervones were all there, and Peters. And George Lee.

Since this was the first time I had returned to Augusta I felt a little restrained. What did you do? I went to parties. Who did you see? This girl, or that boy. Where did you go? There. Here. The bragging went on so that I had to stop listening, because I believed almost all of it. How can you tell what you felt and what you did, when for the last six days all you wanted to do was to get away from them and back to school, even knowing that Deal and Bowman and Couch would beat your ass. And that you would get coal. And that you would have to eat those three meals each day, and knowing what each of them would be just by the way the plates were set on the table.

I listened to Lee tell about Sewickley and watched him try to blow smoke rings. Nash and the Yons condescended with only vague hints that I did not yet understand. For a short instant I wished that I had been in Coraopolis. From what they said it must have been exciting. I remembered that Lucille had on a dress I had never seen before. Maybe I should have paid more attention. The wheels of the train clicked on. The Conductor came through and punched our tickets and I dozed off. The last thing I remembered was the dancing school Ball and how my nipples were sore from the cold. When I awoke we had the call for Martinsburg and suitcases were being tumbled from the racks to the seats. I helped George with his, and soon we all shuffled off the train. The smell of the smoke stung, but the cold was not as biting; the Valley was not bitter as we had left it, even for so short a time.

From Martinsburg the train would go on

to Washington, while we would ride the bus south on the Pike to AMA. It would take between two and a half and three hours, depending on the traffic. Fortunately, the highway was clear of snow and dry so that there was no ice to slide us around. There were plenty of seats, but we all sat together toward the back, and more of the same conversations took place that had on the train, some for the second time. The bus was noisier than the train and lurched more. I felt embarrassed that I had little to tell, and I mostly watched out of the window, recognizing the towns as we passed through them. There were stops for relief at Winchester and again at Harrisonburg. And then there were Mount Crawford and Mount Sidney and over the hill to the drive. The sight of barracks stirred me with relief, that it was still there; and some slight fear: it would now be June before I would go home again, and the first semester exams were coming soon. I had not studied at all during vacation. I was sure I had forgotten everything.

As the bus gradually slowed to stop, I saw the clear sparkling snow on the hills behind school. Some smoke streamed from the boiler room, our breaths steamed as we hiked up the drive to the Arch; I knew my face would be red as soon as we got into the warm room.

But of course nobody had turned on the radiator, and the room was nearly as cold as the outside. I cursed as I turned the valve knob to open and the steam hissed into the radiator. George and I both had our overcoats on and our black knit gloves, but still we shivered as we huddled, waiting for the heat to start. It took some minutes for the cold metal to warm up, and meanwhile the pipes made a thumping noise in protest.

It was now late afternoon. There was a notice on the bulletin board in the Arch that a cold cut supper would be ready in the mess hall at six. The room was near normal warm. We stowed away the things we had in our suitcases and went in to the wash room and cleaned up.

After supper we roamed around the second stoop, The music! There were the black jazz men, and the white jazz men, and they had all come back from Christmas loaded with records, and a few new Victor Orthophonics. Louis Armstrong had a new one, West End Blues; and Whiteman rolled up the rugs with Bix Beiderbecke and Bing Crosby on Changes and Lonely Melody. Someone came up with a new Ted Lewis number, called the Medicine Man for the Blues, and George Lee got a dreamy look in his eyes.

"I know he's a dope fiend and a drunk, but he's the greatest musician alive today!" George said.

"I like Beiderbecke," I said. *"And Columbo."*

By nine-thirty my eyes were closing, and by ten I was in bed and sound asleep. First call got me on my feet before my eyes opened. I had not turned the radiator off, so the room was warming. Now had begun the first day of the time after Christmas, and it was Thursday.

I had not forgotten how to fin out, and later in classes I was astounded to find that I had not forgotten what I had learned in the weeks of fall. The old men seemed to have lived well during the holidays and were less vicious the first few days. The weather was cold and clear and drill merely consisted of brief close order where the parade ground had been plowed clear, mostly just to sharpen our timing. It would be another week before the routine was fully settled and the assignments in classes built up again to all you could handle.

A MEMORIAL DANCE

I was looking back. Christmas vacation had come and gone, and the mid-year exams were past. It was cold and the frozen ground supported the soft snow under the crisp crust. The walk down

to the filling station was dangerous, because if you slipped on the gravel drive and went down you would have a skinned knee or bleeding hands; but the walk to the filling station had to be made, every weekday afternoon, so that you could sit on the bench or jump up on the coke cooler and hear what the others had to say, and lie a little yourself. How else could you learn about it?

Oh, the girls that they had had. The booze they had drunk, the ways they had narrowly missed death by accident, who had gotten the clap. Do you know, I found out that one of the old men who had it had bent the water pipe to the urinal while he pissed because the pain was so bad. But the treatment! It was so bad that I wondered how in God's name anyone could take a chance on that, ever. Bowman was the one who seemed to know all about it, although he insisted he'd never had it. What they do to you is they shove this instrument, sort of like a small umbrella, up your cock and then they pull it out; but meantime the umbrella opens and it just rips out the whole inside of the thing. Of course, Bownan said, they only do this after the medicine has failed, and if you don't have a real bad dose this wouldn't be necessary.

I thought of the girls I had known. Alice, from dancing school, who had lovely curly hair and always smelled as though she took a bath ten times a day; certainly there would be no danger there. But on the other hand, I had only put my arms around her and she had only let me kiss her goodnight once or twice. And there was Betty, who could ice skate like a dancer, and wore a short skirt to Duquesne Gardens, with light tan stockings that ran up to who knew where. But when my mother would take us home in the afternoon there would only be a short goodbye. Of course, there was Lucille who lived down in the fourth apartment from us, who always wanted to play spin the bottle, and would turn the lights out in the living room when we had a party at her place, until her father or mother would come down from upstairs and turn them on again. And, of course, the dumb girl

down the street who was supposed to be screwing her brother, although this I never knew about for sure.

These, then, were my souvenirs, unless you went all the way back to Jennie. She swam like a baby seal, but at six years old swimming was about the way it was until the time she told her mother. It made me shudder a little.

So it was that the Christmas vacation tales were told and they were over with. I could have told them about how I tried drinking and got so sick that I thought I would have to go to the hospital because I was throwing up something that I didn't have, and I thought that my insides were coming out. I didn't have anything else to tell, and somehow I wasn't very proud of that story so I never mentioned it at the time. In later years I would maybe use it as a contrast.

It was the night of the mid-winter dance. This is one of the formals, when you wear the full dress uniform and low shoes, and there is a long cold walk from barracks to the gym. For those of us who didn't have local dates, or some girl who would come from your home town and stay (with her mother at a hotel or rooming house nearby), there would be some girls from Stuart Hall who would be escorted out from town, in a bus, and they would dance with you if you knew how to dance, and drink lemonade or coke during the intermissions. You couldn't leave the gym, and the girls couldn't catch a smoke with you outside of the doors, but they could stand just inside while you did. The Cadet Ramblers played, and they seemed to me to be very good. George Moffett was the best; he could tongue the alto sax just like Rollini did the bass; and we had good horns and drums. I knew I wouldn't dance much because I couldn't do the shag, but I would be up crowding around the stage to listen, and to watch the dancers who knew what they were doing. Like they would break off from the slow swayers and go into a tap dance, the metal taps on their shoes crashing in unison to the beat, and the floor of the gym would sway in time.

Chairman Doug Pennock Speaks

During the Saturday Luncheon, Doug Pennock looked back, and then looked forward ...

One score and two years ago we opened our Museum!

Through the generous donations of Joseph Salicrup, class of '31 in the late 90's, The Alumni Association was able to negotiate an agreement with the owners of AMA's former campus to restore the oldest building on the property, built 151 years ago in approximately 1879.

It was the original home of Charles Summerville Roller Sr., known as "The Professor".

Through more generous donations, we were able to hire the same contractor who restored Thomas Jefferson's summer home "Poplar Forrest", to restore what had come to be known as the Roller-Robinson House and make it AMA's museum.

Charles Jr., Thomas, William and Maggie Bell were all born in this home. Maggie was the Professors only daughter who married Colonel Warren Robinson, thus the name Roller-Robinson House. It's a fact that Maggie Bell taught at AMA and lived in the home till she passed in the late 50's. Afterward, it was used as the Academy's Library.

The total expense to renovate the home back to its Glory Days was @ \$360,000. Restoration was completed in 1999 and it afforded us a 27 year lease.

It's always been my understanding that Goodloe Sanders,'57, and Duke Fancher,'58, had a discussion with Charles S Roller Jr., AKA "Big Boy", while they were students at Augusta and made a promise to him that if anything ever happened to the academy, they would do whatever they could to secure AMA's legacy.

Thus, began the mission to establish a museum. Construction was completed, portraits and furniture were donated from the Livick family, display cases were built, artifacts were loaned or donated and volunteers contributed time and energy.

The realization of a Museum, dedicated to the Legacy and Cadet Life of our Academy began. It was a few years later that Interstate signs were donated by the West Family Trust, whose son Norvell West, '83, has the distinction of being the last cadet senior to walk across the stage and receive an AMA Diploma.

There is a long list of Alumni and friends whose dedication and love of AMA, helped bring the Museum to reality.

Soon after the museum opened, we established the AMA Alumni Foundation which allowed us a 501(c)(3) status. Bob Bradford class of '50 was elected as the Foundation's first Chairman, followed by Gordon

See Pennock on page 27

Regional Reunions

Any alumnus, anywhere has the support from the Alumni Association & Foundation to conduct a Regional Reunion. While the responsibility falls on the Alumni, how to plan and create an effective regional reunion will be provided by the Museum Staff, simply ask. If you're interested in hosting a regional reunion, please inquire with Amy at the museum.

The AMA Medal Award was presented

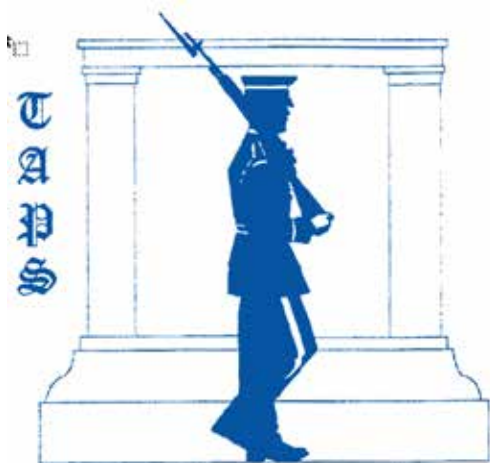
posthumously to **George Reaves, '69** by **Steve Trent, '70**. *"It's presented annually to say 'Thank You' to someone who has gone above and beyond to help the Association and the Foundation. Without them, we would be less of an organization. George was a mainstay and a dedicated docent and volunteer at the Museum and recent reunions. He passed about 11 months ago and will surely be missed."*



Miss Ella Dietzel Receives her Scholarship Award Certificate from **Phil Bentley, '83**. Ella is studying theater, leaning towards the technical aspects of theater production at Coastal Carolina University



Jack White, '69, receives a Silver Dollar from **Steve Trent, '70**. The Silver Dollar is a personal award given by Steve to someone deemed to be deserving of special recognition and thanks. Museum Director, **Amy Hensley**, was also presented with a Silver Dollar.



Report deaths of AMA Alumni,
Faculty and Friends to the
AMA Museum
P. O. Box 101
Fort Defiance, VA 24437
540-248-3007
Museum@AMAalumni.org



Ricardo Prado, '73, and family drumming

Some of the names listed below passed away in earlier years, but were never reported or recognized in *The Bayonet*. We include them now out of respect for the time they spent at AMA.

Full obituaries can be found on our website at AMAalumni.org/ama-alumni-obituaries/

Jack Scriven Hodge, '51

February 14, 1933 - October 2, 2021

Henry O. Nicol, '64

June 23, 1946 - February 24, 2021

Larry G. Cluster (right)

September 1, 1951 - October 17, 2021

Larry was the groundskeeper of the AMA campus for the Pentecostal Church, and as such was always considered a member of our extended family. The first time I met Larry, he was sitting on the Mess Hall Kitchen slab reading his Bible. The last time I saw Larry in September, he was sitting on our museum's back porch reading his Bible.

Larry took care of us and our museum in so many ways behind the scenes and most never knew he was even there for us. I did, and I know we will miss him terribly.



Herbert M. Walling, '66

September 27, 1947 - December 22, 2018

Hector Celis, '83

Hector Gerardo Celis Aranguren

July 20, 2021



Pennock Speaks ...

Metz, Goodloe Sanders,
Frank Williamson, Blaine
Clark, Ed Rogerville and now me.

Some of the alumni, whose contributions will forever fill the walls of our Museum include, Goodloe Saunders, Duke Fancher, Mickey Gordon, Clyde Ramsey, Tommy Simmons, Ed Click, Gary Nicholson, Gordon Metz, Steve Trent, B.J. d'Orsay and more.

The support we gained from alumni & faculty was immensely important- Joe Josephson, Don Studer, Doug Carter and Ben Zinkhan, to name a few.

As we're speaking about individual commitment to our organizations, no one has given more, done more or helped elevate the Legacy of our Beloved Academy than our first Foundation Chairman. Daily, the successes at the museum are, in part, because of information researched and freely given to us by Bob Bradford. His efforts to resurrect and exalt the Bayonet have become the Wikipedia of the academy.

We had thought it would be appropriate that Mr. Bradford make today's Museum Anniversary presentation. However, after some thought and because of the Covid-19 virus Delta Variant, Bob decided that he should reduce his risk and remain in California this weekend. We understand and extend and enormous and heartfelt thank you for all he's done for AMA, its legacy and all of us fellow alumni.

The reason our Museum has remained for so many years is simple. It's because of the support, dedication and generous contributions of time and money from you, the Alumni, Faculty, Staff and Friends of AMA. Without you, our museum would have dwindled. But it hasn't. In fact "it's thrived" !!! Since the Museum opened, we've hosted about 20,000 visitors, and since we added the Route 11 signs a few years ago, attendance has greatly increased. And, we survived the recent Pandemic!

There have been times when contributions have slowed and the plea, asking for funds was initiated, but you always stepped up, always did what was right to keep the Legacy of our Academy active.

That 27 year lease I spoke of, well, it expires in about 5 years. What that means is we'll no longer be under the protection of our lease agreement and apt to have to pay a sizable sum to continue to lease our Museum. Further, our ability to gain Grants and Endowments is full of hurdles because we lease rather than own.

As you heard briefly this morning in the Foundation Meeting, the single most important focus of our organizations is to financially Secure AMA's legacy, find a permanent home to house our Academy's artifacts and tell the story of cadet life at Augusta.

As numbers of

See Pennock on page 28



Benedictine College Preparatory Military Academy cadets visited Museum at Augusta Military Academy today. They were a great group of young men! Many thanks to our staff as well as Brett Thompson, Ed Rogerville, Brian Miller and Steve Trent for their help in giving tours today.



Wes Demory, '79 Battalion Commander and his son Reece stop by the Museum in August as they make their way to Lexington to enroll Reece at VMI.

Museum Visitors



Wayne Trotter, '70, made a brief stop at the museum just to say "Hello" and buy a shirt

Keith Eddie Lobach, '70, and his wife were just here on their way back home to Pennsylvania. It was Keith's first visit to AMA since the end of his postgraduate year in 1970, when he played football under Coach Sassaman. He toured the museum and the grounds, shared stories, looked at his transcript that I found in the archive, and made a generous PX purchase.



Tim Medlin, '62, with Sonya Medlin and Randall Perrine. It was Tim's first return to AMA in 59 years. He left a note in our visitor guest book mentioning what a great tour Chris Correa gave them and that it renewed his interest in AMA.



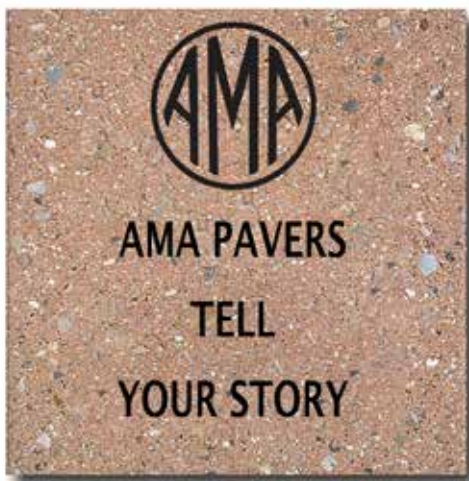
AMA '68 alumnus, and career Coast Guard veteran, **Warren Flowers** (c); his wife, **Anne** (r); and their friend, whom Warren met in the service, **Cheryl Honeycutt** (l)

Pennock Speaks ... alumni continue to decline with each passing year, it brings attention to the question of *"Who will help keep the spirit of AMA alive?"*

The answer is the "Legacy Preservation Corps". I spoke of this in the Foundation meeting earlier today. The Legacy Preservation Corps is a group of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of AMA Alumni, Faculty and Staff who have heard the stories, met the classmates, attended reunions and seem to understand how very special this Academy is or was to their father or grandfather. We've started with a handful whose objective is to study the history of AMA, help give guided tours of the Museum, and specifically help

preserve the Legacy of Augusta Military Academy. If you know of an offspring of an Alumnus who has the "AMA Spirit", please show them how to get involved.

We remain fortunate and blessed these past 22 years, for all we've accomplished and all we've preserved. Yet, the "to do list" keeps growing as we add more projects and develop more programs to elevate the awareness of our Museum. Under my time as the Foundation Chair, continuous improvement will continue. And I'll do all I can to see that those who follow in the Leadership of our Foundation, keep the same focus of Securing the Legacy of Augusta Military Academy.



Paver Order Form

Options:

4" x 8" ~ 3 lines of 20 characters each - \$50

8" x 8" ~ 6 lines of 20 characters each - \$100

8" x 8" ~ 3-6 lines of 20 characters plus graphic - \$225

*number of lines depends on size of graphic

Left: example of 8 x 8 with graphic and three lines of text.

Fill in the blanks below. **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!** Only one paver per order form. Print additional copies for additional pavers. When you buy a paver, you SUPPORT AMA'S ALUMNI FOUNDATION.

Your Name : _____ Class, if any: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Email: _____

WHAT SIZE PAVER DO YOU WANT? ____ 4" x 8" - \$50

____ 8" x 8" - \$100

____ 8" x 8" with _____ graphic - \$225
graphic at ____ top or ____ bottom

* contact museum for custom size and placement of graphic, additional charges may apply

Punctuation marks and spaces count as characters!

Please PRINT below what you want on your engraved brick:

Line 1: _____

Line 2: _____

Line 3: _____

Line 4: _____

Line 5: _____

Line 6: _____

Mail form to: AMA Museum, PO BOX 100, FORT DEFIANCE, VA 24437

Include check or money order made payable to AMA Alumni Foundation

OR call the museum at (540) 248-3007 with your credit card information

OR email form to museum@AMAalumni.org, then call with payment information

OR call the museum to place your paver order over the phone.



BAND



AMA



ROLLER RIDERS



ROLLER RIFLES



Nominations are being sought for the Class of 2022 AMA Sports Hall of Fame (SHOF) inductees. You may nominate an individual athlete, coach, team or anyone that you feel contributed in a significant way to AMA sports. Personnel / Team(s) selected will be recognized during Reunion 2022.



Please email your nomination to John Arthur '75
email: john.arthur@cdg-1.com AND Amy
Hensley, the Museum Director, email:
museum@AMAalumni.org.

All nominations must be received no later than
FRIDAY, January 28, 2022!



Amazon Smile is the easiest way for you to funnel free cash into the coffers of the Museum of Augusta Military Academy's general operating fund. It costs you nothing! Just shop Amazon as normal, starting out at smile.amazon.com.



Madison McClintic, '46, stopped by the museum with his wife. They are from Henrico, VA.



Victor Gomez, '69, Roberto Gomez, '70, Jeff Wenzel, '70, Larry Reed, '69 and Doug Driscoll, '72, catching up during Friday's banquet.



Did you know AMA has its own YouTube channel? And that it has a collection of 96 AMA videos? And that we only have 30 subscribers?

You can find us at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWbpCK1SXGqZuA09p_Mp9Yg

Legacy Preservation Corps

Purpose:

- To create a committee of descendants and/or friends of Augusta Military Academy Alumni, Faculty and Staff, who are as passionate about the Academy and dedicated to Preserving AMA's Legacy and to:
- Learn the history of our Academy
- Be trained to be an effective docent at the museum
- Keep the memories and stories of AMA alive
- Manage the AMA Alumni Foundation into perpetuity

Expectations:

- Meet regularly
- Develop a structure of management / leadership
- Seek participants
- Assist with financial stability
- Protect and preserve AMA's history, artifacts and legacy

How to get involved:

- Contact AMA's Curator at amacurator@gmail.com
- Contact AMA's Museum Director at museum@amaalumni.org

Our digitized RECALLs are available at two internet sites. First, we maintain galleries.AMAalumni.org which contains a vast collection of photographs from past reunions as well as the RECALLs. Our RECALLs have also been uploaded to [Archive.org](https://archive.org) for permanent archiving. The advantage of searching for them on Archive.org, is that these are completely text searchable. For example, on the archive site, enter "Augusta Military Academy" 1970 (including the quotes) in the search field, press enter, and the 1970 recall will appear. You can then search for any name without having to scroll through the entire book.

Shop our online PX store.

We have a huge selection of AMA branded memorabilia and great Christmas gifts.

shop.AMAalumni.org



AMA Alumni Long-sleeve Shirt, available in wheat or navy. **\$39**



#1620 marching cadet gray sweatshirt plus sizes more **\$30**



#1302 AMA Logo Golf Hat. Olive with leather strap **\$20**



#1660 t-shirt navy with small AMA logo, plus sizes more **\$16**



#5216 AMA 20oz Blue Thermal Travel Tumbler **\$20**



#JMUG11 AMA Marching Cadet Coffee Mug **\$9**



Goat Milk with Lavender Lotion from White Oak Lavender Farm in Harrisonburg, VA. Available in Lavender Fields Scent, Lavender Flower, and Goat Milk with Lavender 2oz travel size **\$9**



#5509 - AMA Pin, 1" **\$8**



American handmade item. Materials: tea dyed muslin, cotton fabric, DMC thread, Cotton stuffing. 8" x 8" stitchery pillow. **\$12**



Embroidered Dish Towels, with an AMA Logo and a variety of messages: Academy Trained, Band Company, Daily Drill, GI Inspection, Mess Hall, Mystery Meat, Reveille, SOS, Roller Rifles, Soupy, Sunday Parade, and Taps **\$12**

All purchases from our online PX/Gift Shoppe contribute to the general operating fund for the Museum. It's an great way to support our mission.